

statewide Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.

Tony is a loving husband and the father of three who continues to put passion in his every endeavor. He is a true inspiration and an exemplary Floridian.

Gracias por todo mi amigo. Thank you, Tony.

ENSURE HEAD START'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Head Start Program. As a former Head Start kid, I know firsthand the valuable, comprehensive education program that Head Start does for low-income families, and I celebrate the program's many achievements.

The Republicans, on the other hand, will celebrate Head Start's 38 years of success by pushing forward with the School Readiness Act. This legislation is not only a bad idea, it has the possibility of eliminating key services to nearly 1 million students by converting the Head Start Program to a block grant program. Block granting Head Start is a blockheaded idea that will undoubtedly hurt this very successful program.

One problem in particular with this plan is that States are already dealing with huge budget deficits, and they may be tempted to divert Head Start funds to use for other purposes. How would that improve the Head Start Program?

I urge my colleagues to celebrate Head Start's 38th anniversary by opposing this misguided legislation.

WHERE ARE IRAQI WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, Americans, indeed the whole world, are asking, why have we not we found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the vast quantities of anthrax, small pox, serin, mustard gas and other agents, the nuclear weapons, or the near-nuclear weapons?

Congress has an obligation to the American people and to our men and women in uniform to conduct a full inquiry. I think the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is the right forum to do that.

Now, the administration says that Iraq has had 12 years of practice in hiding; the weapons were there, perhaps, but were destroyed; or maybe they were there, but they were moved; or maybe they were not there, but could be constituted on demand. In any case, either there is something wrong, or the

intelligence was too vague and imprecise to track what has happened to them.

The President says we are going to find weapons of mass destruction. He may be right. But it seems to me that before the President sent our troops into battle and committed our Nation to this war, we should have had a very good idea of just where those weapons of mass destruction were so that we could secure them and track them.

STATE VETERANS CEMETERY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as our troops come home from Iraq and we look forward to D-Day's 60th anniversary, we all feel a deep and renewed sense of gratitude for our Nation's veterans. And as increasing numbers, like members of my own Hawaii's famed 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, pass on, we must also remember that one of our basic promises to them is to be buried with their comrades in our great national cemeteries, from Arlington to my own National Cemetery of the Pacific.

But increasing numbers of States, 17 at last count, have no Federal VA cemetery, or else those cemeteries are now full. These States must pick up an increasing burden, which is and should be the Federal Government's, and the reality is that, for these veterans, their final resting places are suffering.

Today I introduced a simple bill to raise the Federal reimbursement for veteran burials in State cemeteries where there is no Federal VA option from \$300 to \$750. This is only fair, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO BOB HOPE

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a very early point in my life, I was taught that you can celebrate your birthday the week before and the week after the actual date.

A week ago today, we all know that Bob Hope celebrated his 100th birthday. We are actually in the midst of the celebration of the 50th birthday of our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

When I think about Bob Hope, he is someone who I have been privileged to know for many years and have had the opportunity to spend time with him and his wonderful wife Delores and their family. But I will tell you, even when you are in small company with Bob Hope, you cannot help but be in awe of an individual who is virtually unparalleled in his commitment to the United States of America.

A year ago we were able to honor him by naming the Chapel at the Veterans

Cemetery in West Los Angeles, with the help of his friends, Mary Jane and Charles Wick. There are countless people all over this world who have to continue to be indebted to Bob Hope for the great sacrifice that he has made and the happiness that he has brought to so many millions of individuals.

Happy birthday, Mr. Hope.

LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS TREATED DIFFERENTLY

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Erin Doyel asked the question, "what about my kid?" Her kid in this case is Adrienne. Erin works as a financial administrative assistant. She earns \$12,675 a year. She goes to work every day. She is eligible for the child tax credit. In fact, she receives the child tax credit.

But what she will not receive is she will not receive the increase in the child tax credit that was passed this year, which would mean \$400 to families with children who are eligible. But the Republicans made a decision that people like Erin and her daughter Adrienne will not receive it because they earn between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year.

These are families with children who go to work every day, but they will not be given the benefit of the tax cut, they will not get the increase in the child tax credit, they will not have an easier time supporting their family for all of the hard work they do at very difficult and low wages, because the Republicans made a decision that Erin and Adrienne will not be included.

That is why Erin Doyel from Vallejo, California, is asking, what about my kid? Why are we treated differently than the rest of America's families?

ENSURING AMERICA'S SECURITY FROM TERRORISM

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we have heard it said it so many times that it risks becoming a cliché: Our Nation is engaged in a war against terrorism. If I may be permitted one more cliché: Money is the lifeblood of any terrorist organization.

The ability of the September 11th terrorists to move money through American banks without sending up any cautionary red flags was critical to their success and our national tragedy. People attempting to open accounts in this country without Social Security numbers ought to be seen as a giant, flashing red neon flag. That is why we must refuse to allow banks to accept as legitimate identification any foreign government-issued identification document in lieu of a Social Security number.

The Department of Treasury and the banks see things differently. The Treasury Department has issued a final rule to allow banks to accept the Mexican matricula I.D. card. But at the request of the banks, Treasury went even further. Their rule does not even require banks to maintain copies of the matricula cards.

Ignorance in this case might be good business practice, but it is dangerous and foolhardy security policy. Our responsibility as Members of Congress is to make sure that terrorists cannot use American banks to finance attacks on our people.

HELPING CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP THE MOST

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago this House made a terrible mistake in the tax cut bill, partly because that bill was rammed through this House under the so-called marshal law rule, with minimal notice or debate. Some 12 million American children who need the help the most were left out of that bill; 444,000 Tennessee children were left out of that bill.

It is not too late to correct the mistake, and I hope that this House will take prompt action to help those 12 million children, including the 444,000 Tennessee children who need the help the most. The clock is ticking, Mr. Speaker. The world is watching. Let us help these kids.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we saw a truly historic event as President Bush pushed the Israeli-Palestinian peace process forward. The road map to peace that President Bush has laid out has been accepted by the Israeli government, Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazan and other Arab leaders.

In fact, Abu Mazan became the first Palestinian leader to denounce terrorism as a solution to the conflict with Israel; and, significantly, those words were spoken in Arabic for the entire Arab world to hear.

Prime Minister Sharon also has helped move the process forward by not only continuing the dialogue but by taking concrete steps to show the commitment of the Israeli people to peace.

This is all very promising, but now words need to be backed up with action. None of this would have been possible without the bold leadership of President George W. Bush. I praise President Bush for his efforts. This is just another example of the President's consistent message to the world that

the United States is ready to lead the world in the fight against terrorism and in the pursuit of peace and freedom.

EXTEND TAX CREDIT FOR CHILDREN TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats feel very strongly that we need to move to put back in place this tax credit for children and families of children at lower income levels. These are working people. The Republicans made a huge mistake, and it shows where they are coming from when they eliminated giving a child tax credit to these working families at the lower end of the income spectrum.

But now what I hear is that the Republicans in the other body say, well, they are not going to do this unless we also give a child tax credit to people at a little higher income level. Now we hear that here in this House the Republican leadership says that they are probably not going to do it anyway, because they do not want to give the tax credit to the families of these lower-income working families.

Once again, the Republicans created this problem because they would not include the child tax credit for these working families, and they are still trying to stop it from becoming law and demanding that more money go to higher income people in order to pay for it.

When is this going to stop? When are we going to wake up and realize that what the Republican leadership is really all about in this tax bill and this series of tax bills is just helping the elite, the wealthy elite?

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXIST IN IRAQ

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? We know to a moral certitude of such weapons. How do we know? Saddam Hussein told us. On December 7 of last year, he told the U.N. that he owned 30,000 chemical weapons, but he forgot where he put them. We have not even found the chemical weapons that Saddam admitted to the U.N. he made. There are over 500 WMD sites in Iraq, and we have inspected less than half of them.

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Remember Dr. Hussein Kamel? The U.N. inspected Iraq for 4 years between 1991 and 1995 and found no nuclear program. Dr. Kamel then told us that 40,000 Iraqis worked on nuclear weapons, but our intelligence missed it all.

WMD in Iraq, it is inevitable that a final chapter will be written in this

story. As Paul Harvey would say, and then we will say, "and now for the rest of the story."

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, a children's health agency has reportedly diverted Federal funds to a study of the sexual predilections of aging men.

Now, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has provided more than \$137,000 for a 3-year study to provide the most comprehensive picture to date of the sexual behavior of aging men. The grants were sent in two fiscal years to the New England Research Institute to examine trends in a range of sexual behavior.

Good grief, we talk about budget deficits, and we spend our money like this. We should be ashamed. This money was intended to help children affiliated with pediatric illnesses and diseases, not to study sexual habits of America's senior men.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development gets my Porker of the Week Award.

TAX CUT

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to rise and express my outrage that, in the passing of an irresponsible tax cut, Republicans deliberately prevented families with incomes under \$26,625 from receiving a child tax credit.

Here is a family that I represent in my district. They also happen to be a family that sent one of their sons to war. He is still in Iraq. He would not even qualify for a rebate. It is outrageous that 31 percent of California families right now will not be eligible for any tax credit, child tax credit. That is 2.4 million children in California alone, a State that I represent. In my district, one out of every four families will get no child tax credit.

Families like this work hard, pay their taxes, are expecting to get some help from the government, and get nothing. They do not want a handout; they just want to be treated fairly. Yet somehow Republicans found \$90 billion to give to 200,000 millionaire families. I do not even have one millionaire family that lives in my district.

This is the wrong thing to do. We need to not declare a war on working-class people.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)